

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT

Woman's Club Considers This Important Subject.

INTERESTING SPEECHES MADE

Mary Lemon, Mayor Herman Wise and City Physician Pilkington Address the Club Members on "Civic Improvement."

Yesterday afternoon in the Redmen's Hall the Woman's Club met in regular session. "Civic Improvement" was the main subject under discussion, and there were a number of interesting addresses and papers on the subject. Among those speaking was Mary E. Lemon who spoke on the "Relation of the School to Civic Improvement." Her remarks were very interesting and instructive, and were listened to with the greatest attention by those in attendance.

Mayor Herman Wise and Dr. Pilkington delivered instructive speeches on the subject under consideration, resumes of their remarks being given below.

After thanking the ladies of the Woman's Club for the courtesy of the invitation, Mayor Wise referred in a humorous vein to the fact that he was preceded by City Physician Pilkington, he said:

"As a rule folks don't like to meet what follows a doctor's prescription and that is, bills, but a doctor's prescription frequently results in upbuilding the system and improving the condition of the patient, hence no harm may result from the city physician's recommendations concerning the improvements required in building up the city."

Referring to the subject of Civic Improvement, Mayor Wise said:

"Improvement is what all mankind is aiming at; without hope of improvement, effort would cease and ambition would no longer live in the breast of man. The hope of improvement encourages the suffering, the timid and inexperienced.

"The desire to improve, conquers vicious intent and regulates careless habits. Improvements may be made in every sphere of usefulness. There is room for improvement in civic as well as in military affairs; improvements in our social, moral and physical conditions; but I am expected to refer especially to 'civic' improvements, and it is well that we devote a little time to the consideration of this important problem. National government is looking after national improvements, the various religious denominations, after improvement in spiritual affairs; the medical fraternity studies improvements in physical affairs; the school fosters mental improvements, and hence it is entirely fitting that the citizens at large interest themselves in civic improvements, and to my mind, civic improvement is one of the pillars upon which the whole structure of the community rests. If civic pride allows civic improvement to lag, the community

thus afflicted cannot hope to keep pace with other places where civic pride encourages civic improvement. It is with a community as with an individual, nature may have favored a man with a fine physique, but lack of ambition or pride causes him to be careless, slovenly and unclean, and as a consequence, he degenerates and ultimately becomes a wreck and the world loses interest in him while his neighbor, though less favored, is careful, takes pride in his person and in his conduct, with the result that he attracts where the other repels. We, as citizens of Astoria may either go ahead or sit still; take advantage of nature's kindness, or become careless of our destiny. What shall our answer be? Let us answer: I for one shall try as hard as I can to stay the fate which befalls the slovenly city. I shall labor as strenuously as possible to improve my city, so that it may become, what fate and nature intended it should be,—the cleanest, healthiest and most attractive city in all Oregon. After giving matters some thought, and in my humble way, it occurred to me that perhaps the establishment of improvement clubs in the various parts of the city might be the best agencies toward accomplishing the necessary results. No one individual can hope to do much, but the combined efforts of members will surely accomplish what the individual is unable to attain. The architects can plan, but no matter how beautiful the design, he could never finish the structure without the assistance of the carpenter, the mason and the painter, hence it becomes imperative that men of all professions and men in all avocations of life, join in and build up the city; now supposing that the house is built, it would after all be a cheerless place unless a good housekeeper put on the finishing touches and in her dainty way, see to it that the carpets are laid and the curtains hung just so; that the table stands in the center and the clock hang on the wall, instead of being thrown in a kitchen corner, and this is where you ladies of the Woman's Club come in. We men, that is the few in Astoria upon whose backs the moss has not yet settled too thickly, we may plan and build, but you must encourage us in these matters; the mind of the masculine individual is too obtuse to comprehend these things. The very first thing we must all learn, is the old maxim, 'that cleanliness is next to godliness.' That tin cans, worn out rubbers and delapidated corsets will never raise rose bushes in the back yard, and that the soup bone and potato peelings from last Sunday's dinner will not cause fragrance to permeate the air. It is also a well known fact, that beaux are not attracted to squalid quarters, neither can investors be induced to visit or visiting, long remain, in a delapidated town.

"Therefore, it is not only safest from a sanitary standpoint, but it is wisest from a commercial standpoint, that we clean house, so that Markham's 'Man With the Hoe,' as well as J. Pierpont Morgan's men with the dough, may be attracted to this, 'Oregon's Best Health Resort.' One of the things most essential in this campaign for a cleaner Astoria, is harmony, and harmony will never grow on slander bushes, hence it is necessary also that we bridle our tongues, control our tempers, and speak kindly of our neighbors ('A little harmony now and then, is relished by the crosser of men'). If I were permitted

to prescribe a compound for civic improvement, I would write down.

"A grain of allowance for our neighbors' faults,
An ounce of kindness for our fellow-men,
A pound of energy for the good of Astoria, and
Tons of work, work, work and work."

The Mayor then digressed by telling a few humorous anecdotes and recited the efforts being made by the Park Commission, stating that there was no question about the Park, the sub-committees having arranged for a drive way sixteen feet wide and over one thousand yards long. Upon the completion of this driveway, the top of the knoll in the center of the Park would be cleared and benches placed thereon, and with the assistance of the Woman's Club, he hoped that a band stand would be erected where the local band might play popular airs for the amusement of the public. He also requested the ladies to use their influence in persuading people of the city to engage the garbage collector, Mr. Nels Jensen, upon the payment of a small monthly fee, to carry away the filth now being thrown into neighboring yards.

He invited the ladies to visit the improvement clubs and schools at different times, in order to encourage the hustlers who have taken the lead in that enterprise for the public good.

Mayor Wise then finished his remarks with an appeal, the closing sentence being about as follows:

Let us never cease our efforts until every hill in Astoria becomes an observatory and every tree a standing monument to the enterprise of Astoria men and the assistance of our beautiful city.

In speaking on the subject of "Civic Improvement," Dr. Pilkington said, in part:

"Civic pride has had an awakening in the past few weeks in our good city, and out of the small beginning already made great things are expected. Many eye-sores have been corrected and in places where old man Rubbish has long held sway, things of beauty are coming into their own. "Let us make our city lovely and we shall love it" is a motto that has inspired more than one civic improvement club. When our people, united, look upon municipal improvement as a larger kind of individual home making and direct their energy to improvement of the yards and streets outside the home doors, the hours of transformation are not far distant. Clean yards and streets mean much more than the casual observer is apt to think. It has justly been said that 'cleanliness is catching' and cleaner yards and streets in one section will arouse a pride and envy in a neighboring district and that district will soon show improvement. Apart from the purely aesthetic and sanitary effects of cleaning up, few realize the many minor benefits derived from civic improvement for example, less dust and mud on clothing, on furniture, on goods in shop, etc. But the great, the almost inestimable beneficial effect of the work will be shown in a decreased death-rate and in the less keenly realized but still more important reduction in the sick rate.

"One of the city's needs is a street cleaning department. We all know that at present the municipal finances will not permit of this, but in the not far

distant future something may be done. In the meantime let each one do what is to be done at his own home, yard and street and do it—not to show summer visitors and strangers that we have a healthful and beautiful town but because we feel that these things are none too good for ourselves, and we are here all the time.

"Public health work in the past and present, consists largely in requiring people to do what they do not wish to do for their own good, and certainly is not a popular profession, but if it is made educational then difficulties are brushed aside and the work becomes easier."

A PLAIN STATEMENT.

Ex-State Senator J. L. Rand on Labor Matters.

The following communication from ex-State Senator J. L. Rand, of Baker City, is self-explanatory, and will convey its own message to those interested:

"To the Editor: On account of what appears to be a studied attempt to misrepresent my position upon certain questions about which the public has a right to be informed, I wish to say:

"No man in the State of Oregon has more admiration for the courage, integrity, ability and patriotism of the President, than I have.

"I am not an enemy to any class of people—laboring men, or otherwise—on the contrary, the laboring men, with hardly an exception, in this community, are all my personal friends. I have never opposed labor legislation, when I believed it to be right, nor have I ever failed to vote against such legislation, when I believed it to be wrong. If that made labor organizations regard me as an enemy, I am willing to be so classed.

"I apologize for no vote that I cast in the legislature and any person or set of persons, feeling aggrieved at any official act of mine, is at perfect liberty to make such criticism as they desire. While a member of the State Senate, I did not vote for or against any measure, that, under the same circumstances and with the same knowledge, I would not vote in the same way again.

"It has been reported that I voted against the Fellow Servant Law. I did not vote against the Fellow Servant Law; on the contrary, I voted, together with every other member of the State Senate, in favor of the passage of that law.

"The particular measure which aroused the antagonism of certain people, was known as "Senate Bill No. 60" introduced by Senator Malarkey, being a bill limiting the hours of service of railroad employes, and, in my judgment, containing many obnoxious features. The vote upon that bill will be found upon page 295, of the Senate Journal of 1905, and the vote upon that measure, upon its final passage was as follows: those voting 'yea' in favor of the bill, were Senators Brownell, Coshow, Howe, Malarkey, Miller and Wright, a total of six in favor of the bill; those voting 'nay' and in opposition to the bill, were Senators Avery, Booth, Bowerman, Carter, Coe, Coke, Croisan, Farrar, Haines, Holson, Holson, Holman, Laycock, Lodghary, McDonald, Pierre, Rand, Sichel, Smith, Tuttle, Whealdon, and Mr. President; there being two members of the Senate absent, to wit, Senators May and Nottingham, making a total of 22 vot-



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